

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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April 15, 1991
Letter No.: 91-36

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers

SUBJECT: PICKLE (Lynch v. Rank)

REFERENCE: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER 90-108

During the last several meetings of the County Welfare Directors Association, and at various other meetings where we have met with county staff, we have expressed the importance of the actions mandated by the Lynch v. Rank court order. The following summarizes those important actions.

COUNTY RESPONSIBILITIES

Pickle Medi-Cal redeterminations must be completed by mid-April and processed through the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data Base (MEDS) before the May month of eligibility (MOE).

If Medi-Cal redeterminations have not been completed by mid-April, MEDS will automatically terminate Medi-Cal eligibility and a May Medi-Cal card will not be issued. Counties must assume responsibility for issuing zero share of cost Medi-Cal cards until Pickle eligibility has been determined. MEDS must be updated with an EW20 or an EW30 transaction (ESAC 2 or 3). An EW 60 will update or delete information on a recipient placed in a Pickle tickler status for the following year (See pages 4-1 through 4-12 in the Pickle Manual). Pursuant to the Lynch v. Rank court order, counties must ensure that the eligibility redetermination on these 503 Leads individuals is completed prior to discontinuance. Discontinuance can not take place prior to the May MOE.

Counties must document and verify in the case file that every individual who appears on the April 503 Leads Report has been contacted and Medi-Cal eligibility determination made by mid-April.

PERSONAL CONTACT REQUIREMENTS

1. In cases where a telephone number for the beneficiary can be ascertained, the county shall attempt on at least two separate dates to reach the beneficiary by telephone. The telephone number in the listing must match the name and address in the current local telephone book.

All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers
Page 2

2. In cases where a telephone contact is not established or no telephone number can be ascertained, a letter was to have been sent out no later than March 1, to the address appearing on the listing. The letter was to inform the beneficiary that he/she must contact the county immediately or he/she will not receive a May Medi-Cal card. The letter was to contain the name and telephone number of the county welfare office. If this letter was not mailed by March 1, 1991, the county must mail a letter immediately.

If the beneficiary is homebound, the county may make a home visit to complete the application or may complete it over the telephone. The individual is required to sign the application. If the signed application is not returned by the assigned due date, the county must make a personal contact to find out why the form was not returned.

Please refer to Section 3-503 Leads pages 3-1 through 3-3 of your Pickle handbook.

We are again asking counties to cooperate in completing Pickle redeterminations by the end of April 1991.

The MEDS Unit mailed an E-Mail on March 21, 1991 to the counties to provide procedures on what transactions are necessary to process Pickle cases.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Maestas-Sandoval of my staff, at (916) 327-7155, ATSS 467-7155.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

FRANK S. MARTUCCI, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch